

***Town of Oakesdale***  
***TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES***  
***For***  
***November 18, 2013***

**\*\* PUBLIC HEARING FOR 2014 PRELIMINARY BUDGET – Mayor Dennis Palmer opened the public hearing at 7:00 p.m. before the regular council meeting. Being no public comments were made the public hearing was closed at 7:02 p.m.**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Dennis Palmer called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. following the Public Hearing.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** Mayor Dennis Palmer, Kelli Meserve, Tom Johnson, Tom Crooks and Randy Robinson. Councilman Al Evans was not in attendance. Also present was Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer.
- III. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** None
- IV. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:** Council members reviewed November 4, 2013 minutes. Randy Robinson made the motion to approve the minutes as written. Tom Crooks seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**
- V. **OLD BUSINESS:**
  - A. **MAINTENANCE OF WELLS** – Bob Hooper did contact Specialty Pump and someone will be out here this week to give us another bid on the work that is needed for the wells.
  - B. **2014 BUDGET** – Mary DeGon reviewed the changes that were made to the budget from the last council meeting. Funds have been added to reflect a state and federal audit that will be required next year due to the federal grant we received from WSDOT for the Steptoe Bridge Replacement Project. The water systems plan for \$50,000 was removed from the budget. Our water fund can't afford the cost of that study at this time. We need to start being able to put money in our reserve account for such a study.
- VI. **NEW BUSINESS:**
  - A. **REQUEST FROM OAKESDALE SCHOOL DISTRICT** – Council members reviewed a letter of request from Superintendent, Jake Dingman, asking our council for assistance in paying for the work the school had done on the parking lot. The school paid \$15,240.23 for rock and hydroseeding the parking area. The school would be most appreciative of any financial assistance towards the cost. The school has allowed the Town in the past to dispose of dirt, rock, cement and other materials to

build up the parking lot area. Jake also included a copy of the bill showing the expense the school paid to improve the parking area. Council members' consensus was not to allow Town funds to pay for improvements of non-Town property.

- B. WATER RATES** – Council members were given a copy of an ordinance that showed the last water rate increase was passed on December 2, 2002 effective on January 1, 2003. The water fund is not sustaining itself and we are using \$10,000 plus a year from the beginning balance to operate. Randy Robinson made a point that if we increase the water rate by five dollars per month we would gain approximately \$12,000 a year for the water fund and we would not need to keep using the remaining savings we have in the water fund to keep up operations. Council members agreed it was a good place to start. Council consensus was to have a public hearing at the next meeting to discuss raising the water rate from \$22 a month to \$27.

**VII. COUNCIL MEMBER'S BUSINESS:**

**KELLI** – She inquired if the work Frontier is conducting on the corner of Steptoe and Second Street has to do with our Steptoe Sidewalk Project. Yes – they are finishing re-routing the fiber optic cable and getting ready to remove the pole and lines on Steptoe.

**TOM J.** – Nothing at this time.

**TOM C.** – He thought it would be a nice touch if we thought about decorating our light poles for the holiday with garland and red bows. Since some of the old telephone poles have been removed there are less poles for the old Christmas decorations to hang from that the Chamber of Commerce purchased years ago.

**RANDY** – There is a yellow lab dog roaming the town getting into garbage cans and making a mess. This dog has been a problem and the owners have been sited before for dog at large by our Town Marshals. The dog belongs to the tenants renting Catherine Crowe's house.

**DENNY** – He had a request by Nannette Bolyard to use the grass area behind the little gas station for a craft fair during the summer. Council members gave their approval to allow crafts and produce to be sold during the summer.

**MARY** – She will be training Diane Hinkins as her backup this week and next week. Diane is willing to work the days that Mary will be away on vacation. Mary will be on vacation December 1<sup>st</sup> thru December 8<sup>th</sup>. Diane will work half days that week. We still have Russ Rickett as a backup for Mary as well.

- VIII. TREASURER'S REPORT/APPROVAL OF CHECKS:** Council members reviewed the Treasurer's Report for November 2013. Tom Johnson made the motion to approve paid checks #23630 - #23660 in the amount of \$41,651.91 for claims and \$6,688.60 for payroll totaling \$48,340.51 from November 6, 2013 through November 15, 2013 AND EFT payment to WA State Department of Revenue in the amount of \$605.01 for excise taxes.

Kellie Meserve seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

- IX. ADJOURNMENT:** Randy Robinson made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 p.m.  
Kelli Meserve seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

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**DENNIS PALMER, MAYOR**

**ATTEST:**

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**Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer**